

From The Director's Desk

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October 19, 2009

Walk-a-Thon--"Rain, Rain, Go Away--" could be heard in the hallways of Deer Path on Friday, October 9th--our Walk-A-Thon day. I know that the committee wished that this childhood rhyme could work its magic and chase the clouds away but it didn't.



Fortunately, Montessori children are a hardy bunch and so they walked in spite of the rain (thankfully, a drizzle and not a downpour). Montessori parents apparently are also hardy and dedicated because we had a wonderful cheering section. The children enjoyed the event as they always do and Deer Path collected \$3,439 which will be used to supplement our tuition income and help pay our operating expenses. We are anticipating this total rising as we receive donations from companies who participate in matching funds. This first

fundraising event is a wonderful community day for our children, staff and parents. It is a time for us to get to know each other a little better as we work toward a common goal--the success of Deer Path.

Thank you to all who participated. A very special thank you to the committee who did a wonderful job organizing and planning the event--Fran Venturini, Dimple Sharma, Melinda Schickinger, Aparna Patel, Rani Ginalski, Lauren Moose, Varsha Mistry, Vaishali Pradhan, Jinhee Bae, Pifang Tsiao, Cindy Kahn, Naomi Imatome-Yun, Chunxia Deng and Tracy Yocum. Thanks also to Mary Smith for being the school's representative.

Computer Problems Resolved--As some of you already know, two of our computers crashed this summer and we lost a great deal of our stored information, even though it was backed up. After hours of work and help from two of our parents, we now have three new computers, updated programs and a totally restored Quick Books. Thank you **Premji Thyagarajan** and **Fran Venturini** for all of your help. Premji donated many hours of his time when the problem first occurred. He helped us to choose the right computers for our needs at a good price. Fran Venturini was instrumental in bringing our Quick Books up to date so that we are now ready for our accountant. I also want to thank Mary Smith and Kristina Vlossak for all the extra time they had to spend in order to get this problem resolved. I know it made their summer extra hectic and stressful. It also made for a difficult beginning to our school year from an administrative stand point. Although Kristina is still reconstructing some of our forms and flyers, we are relieved that everything is now under control. Fortunately, the quality of our program was not affected and the children have acclimated to the new school year without any unusual problems.

Welcome Debbie Morelli--Debbie has joined the staff as the afternoon toddler assistant. A pre-school environment is not new to Debbie. She comes to us with ten years experience working at a pre-school in the Morris County area. Since September 28th, she has been trained in our policies and procedures, she

has been introduced to the staff and has had the opportunity to work with the toddlers. We are very happy to have Debbie at Deer Path and look forward to a long relationship.

Pizza Lunch is back--On October 1st we had the first pizza lunch of the year. All went well and the children were very excited. They really enjoy this special lunch day. Thank you to the committee: Deborah Scott, Amy Chandler, Barbara Matteis, Dana Lemke, Bae Lim and Claudette Crow. If you are interested in having your child participate, just send in \$4.00 in an envelope marked pizza lunch the Monday before the day. Lunch is from 11:30 to 12:25. Please remember, if you are extending your child's hours, the hourly rate will be charged.

Back-to-School Night--This information night was very well attended. Besides the regular presentation, each classroom had a slide show of photos taken of the children as they worked. As they say, a picture speaks a thousand words and I know those who attended enjoyed seeing the happy faces of their children at work in the lovely environments that are arranged by our teachers. Thank you teachers for adding this special touch to the evening.

Parent Education--Periodically, you will receive in the school mail, a copy of an article or a pamphlet which we believe would be helpful information to parents of young children. A few weeks ago, at the beginning of school, we sent home a pamphlet on nutrition. Hopefully, you have found it helpful. This week you will receive a copy of an article on the reasons for so little paper work in a Montessori classroom. It is a very interesting piece. Mrs. Vlossak has many such articles and she will be sending them home to you at appropriate times of the year. Please take the time to read them. I know you will find them informative and maybe even helpful with solving a problem you may be having with one of your children.

Kindergarten News--The Kindergartners have been constructing family trees as an extension to our fall curriculum. This project helps the children learn more about family relationships with an emphasis on their own family. It also leads to very lively conversations with the teachers. The kindergarten children will be working on special projects throughout the school year during their afternoon class time. These projects are concrete ways to apply the knowledge they are learning in class.

Enrichment Activities--We have two special programs that are a part of our curriculum. Spanish and Creative Movement are part of our weekly schedule. Mrs. Nilsson teaches Spanish to the Multi-aged children and this year our Creative Movement program will be presented by Dynamic Fit Kids. Besides these two classes, we also offer a music class and a drama class after school hours. These classes are presided over by independent providers and are paid for independent of your school tuition. Mrs. Sakowski is now conducting the drama class on Wednesday afternoons and Music Preludes brings their program to us on Mondays. If you are interested in either of these programs, you must contact the provider to make arrangements.

Bringing Montessori Home – This 2-part workshop begins on Thursday at 7pm. New families don't want to miss out as valuable information is provided which help home and school work together for the betterment of the child.

Grandparents-- Welcome to our new school year! All is going well. Once a month you will be receiving this newsletter by e-mail. I hope you find it enjoyable and informative. Please make an appointment to visit whenever you have the time or are in the area.

Remember to sign up for conferences –

--November 5th and 6th

Book Fair on Conference Days